

Message Text

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SUBJECT: JUNE 17 PRESS ROUNDUP

1. HENRY L. TREWHITT OF BALTIMORE SUN, ACCOMPANYING SECRETARY VANCE ON VISIT TO GRENADA, SAID VANCE, AT NEWS CONFERENCE, STATED SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS WILL CONTINUE ON "SAME COURSE" -- WHICH HE ACKNOWLEDGED WAS TROUBLED -- WITH ELEVATION OF BREZHNEV TO SOVIET PRESIDENCY. VANCE, ACCORDING TO TREWHITT, EXPRESSED HOPE THAT "GENERAL ATMOSPHERE WILL IMPROVE," BUT SECRETARY CITED NO AREAS OF SPECIAL HOPE FOR SHORT RUN. VANCE REPORTEDLY HAD "NO IDEA" WHETHER NEW SALT TREATY CAN BE COMPLETED BY OCT. 3. VANCE SAID "PRESENT CLIMATE" IN CONGRESS PREVENTS U.S. FROM GRANTING FAVORED TRADING STATUS TO SOVIET UNION. REGARDING SALT, VANCE SAID U.S. REFUSES TO NEGOTIATE "UNDER PRESSURE OF A DEADLINE." INSTEAD, VANCE SAID, U.S. WOULD PREFER
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TEMPORARY ARRANGEMENTS -- SUCH AS OBSERVANCE OF EXPIRED TREATY -- IN INTEREST OF "FAIR AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD NOT BE QUESTIONED LATER."

2. FOLLOWING ITEMS GLEANED FROM SPECIAL WEEKLY REPORT FROM WALL STREET JOURNAL'S CAPITAL BUREAU: "U.S. ANALYSTS FEAR RELATIONS WITH MOSCOW MAY WORSEN SERIOUSLY. BREZHNEV WARNS

'IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE' COULD LEAD TO 'CATASTROPHE.' IF NASTY MOOD UPSETS SALT NEGOTIATIONS, WASHINGTON WILL CONSIDER BOOSTING PENTAGON BUDGET. SOME WORRIERS THINK CARTER-BREZHNEV SUMMIT MAY BE NEEDED TO REVIVE DETENTE.... CARTER WILL FIND IT EVEN TOUGHER, IF CURRENT TENSIONS PERSIST, TO SELL CONGRESS ON SALT TREATY AND TRADE CONCESSIONS TO RUSSIA."

3. BALTIMORE SUN PUBLISHED AP DISPATCH REPORTING THAT GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTING OFFICE HAD RELEASED REPORT CRITICAL OF ERDA AND NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION. DISPATCH SAID ALTHOUGH CARTER'S ENERGY PLAN CALLS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF HUNDREDS OF NUCLEAR REACTORS BY YEAR 2000, FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS DOING LITTLE OR NOTHING TO PREPARE FOR DANGEROUS AND EXPENSIVE JOB OF SHUTTING DOWN PLANTS ONCE THEY ARE OBSOLETE, GAO AUDITORS CONCLUDED.

4. LOUISVILLE JOURNAL REPORTED ON RECENT FOUR-DAY SEMINAR IN WASHINGTON ON FOREIGN AND DEFENSE POLICY CONDUCTED BY WASHINGTON JOURNALISM CENTER. "WHAT WE HEARD WAS GOOD AND BAD," JOURNAL CORRESPONDENT SAID, "GOOD IN SENSE THAT, YES, U.S. IS NOT NO. 2 MILITARILY BUT BAD FROM STANDPOINT THAT THERE REALLY IS NO NO. 2. THERE ARE U.S. AND RUSSIA, THEN ALL REST. ON THAT POINT, SENATOR CHURCH WAS POSITIVE. 'WE'VE ALWAYS LIVED WITH ASSUMPTION THAT MORE ARMS MEANS MORE SECURITY,' HE SAID, 'AND IT'S VERY, VERY HARD FOR PEOPLE TO GRASP, FOR POLITICIANS TO GRASP, FOR ANYONE TO GRASP FACT THAT IN NUCLEAR FIELD, MORE ARMS MEANS MORE INSECURITY.' REP. LES ASPIN OF WISCONSIN, MEMBER OF ARMED UNCLASSIFIED

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SERVICES COMMITTEE, MADE MUCH SAME POINT IN SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT WAY. 'ONLY REASON WE WON'T HAVE TO USE NUCLEAR WEAPONS,' HE SAID, 'IS TO MAKE IT VERY, VERY CLEAR THAT WE WILL.'" JOURNAL CORRESPONDENT SAID NO ONE "HELD OUT MUCH HOPE THAT RACE WOULD WIND DOWN SOON. THERE WERE GUARDED COMMENTS ABOUT POSSIBLE TRADEOFFS THAT WOULD BRING NEW STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TREATY AND CONSEQUENT LOWERING OF MUTUAL BALANCE OF TERROR.... WHILE DEBATE IS, AS SEN. CHURCH SAID, DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND, CONSEQUENCES OF ITS FAILURE ARE NOT. SINCE THERE IS NO WAY TO FIGHT RATIONAL NUCLEAR WAR, RATIONAL MEN MUST SEE TO IT THAT NONE IS STARTED.'

5. IN RECENT EDITORIAL TITLED 'OVERKILL CAPABILITY,' AUGUSTA, MAINE, KENNEBEC JOURNAL OBSERVED THAT SINCE 1945 THERE HAVE BEEN "6,000 MEETINGS UNDER SPONSORSHIP OF UNITED NATIONS TO DISCUSS DISARMAMENT, YET NOT SINGLE NUCLEAR WEAPONS HAS BEEN SCRAPPED AS RESULT.... U.N. DISARMAMENT DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL PRODUCED FIGURES INDICATING

THAT U.S. HAS ENOUGH; NUCLEAR WARHEADS TO DROP 36 ATOMIC
BOMBS ON EACH OF 218 SOVIET CITIES WITH POPULATION OF
100,000 OR MORE. SOVIETS CAN LOB ELEVEN NUCLEAR WEAPONS
ON EACH COMPARABLE AMERICAN CITY. WHY DO THEY NEED MORE?
WHY, INDEED, WHEN: U.S. AND RUSSIA, FIRST AMONG MILITARY
POWERS, RANK 18TH AND 33RD AMONG NATIONS IN THEIR INFANT
MORTALITY RATES; MILITARY AND SPACE RESEARCH TOGETHER GET
MORE PUBLIC RESEARCH FUNDS THAN ALL SOCIAL NEEDS COMBINED;
COST OF ONE TRIDENT SUBMARINE EQUALS THAT OF YEAR'S
SCHOOLING FOR 16 MILLION CHILDREN IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.
NUCLEAR BOMB THAT BLEW APART HIROSHIMA HAD POWER OF 13,000
TONS OF TNT. SINGLE NUCLEAR WARHEAD TODAY MAY HAVE AN
EXPLOSIVE FORCE OF UP TO 20 MILLION TONS OF TNT." CHRISTOPHER

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